



## Homeland Security Advisory System Explained

The Homeland Security Advisory System shall be binding on the executive branch and suggested, although voluntary, to other levels of government and the private sector. There are five Threat Conditions, each identified by a description and corresponding color. From lowest to highest, the levels and colors are:

**Low** = **Green**

**Guarded** = **Blue**

**Elevated** = **Yellow**

**High** = **Orange**

**Severe** = **Red**

The higher the Threat Condition, the greater the risk of a terrorist attack. Risk includes both the probability of an attack occurring and its potential gravity. Threat Conditions shall be assigned by the Attorney General in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. Except in exigent circumstances, the Attorney General shall seek the views of the appropriate Homeland Security Principals or their subordinates, and other parties as appropriate, on the Threat Condition to be assigned. Threat Conditions may be assigned for the entire Nation, or they may be set for a particular geographic area or industrial sector. Assigned Threat Conditions shall be reviewed at regular intervals to determine whether adjustments are warranted.

### Threat Conditions and Associated Protective Measures

The world has changed since September 11, 2001. We remain a Nation at risk to terrorist attacks and will remain at risk for the foreseeable future. At all Threat Conditions, we must remain vigilant, prepared, and ready to deter terrorist attacks. The following Threat Conditions each represent an increasing risk of terrorist attacks. Beneath each Threat Condition are some suggested Protective Measures, recognizing that the heads of Federal departments and agencies are responsible for developing and implementing appropriate agency-specific Protective Measures:

- **1. Low Condition (Green).** This condition is declared when there is a low risk of terrorist attacks. Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures they develop and implement:
  - 1. Refining and exercising as appropriate preplanned Protective Measures;
  - 2. Ensuring personnel receive proper training on the Homeland Security Advisory System and specific preplanned department or agency Protective Measures; and
  - 3. Institutionalizing a process to assure that all facilities and regulated sectors are regularly assessed for vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks, and all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate these vulnerabilities.

[What should I do if I am a Mississippi Business, School, Family, or Individual in Low Condition \(Green\)?](#)

- **2. Guarded Condition (Blue).** This condition is declared when there is a general risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:
  - 1. Checking communications with designated emergency response or command locations;
  - 2. Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures; and
  - 3. Providing the public with any information that would strengthen its ability to act appropriately.

**What should I do if I am a Mississippi Business, School, Family, or Individual in Guarded Condition (Blue)?**

- **3. Elevated Condition (Yellow).** An Elevated Condition is declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:
  - 1. Increasing surveillance of critical locations;
  - 2. Coordinating emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions;
  - 3. Assessing whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of preplanned Protective Measures; and
  - 4. Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans.

**What should I do if I am a Mississippi Business, School, Family, or Individual in Elevated Condition (Yellow)?**

- **4. High Condition (Orange).** A High Condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:
  - 1. Coordinating necessary security efforts with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies or any National Guard or other appropriate armed forces organizations;
  - 2. Taking additional precautions at public events and possibly considering alternative venues or even cancellation;
  - 3. Preparing to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing their workforce; and
  - 4. Restricting threatened facility access to essential personnel only.

**What should I do if I am a Mississippi Business, School, Family, or Individual in High Condition (Orange)?**

- **5. Severe Condition (Red).** A Severe Condition reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. Under most circumstances, the Protective Measures for a Severe Condition are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time. In addition to the Protective Measures in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies also should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- 1. Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs;
- 2. Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-positioning and mobilizing specially trained teams or resources;
- 3. Monitoring, redirecting, or constraining transportation systems; and
- 4. Closing public and government facilities.

**What should I do if I am a Mississippi Business, School, Family, or Individual in Severe Condition (Red)?**

Taken from the National Homeland Security Website - Homeland Security Presidential Directive - 3  
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020312-5.html>)